

Withdrawal of OCR Employability Skills

OCR constantly reviews the uptake and performance of all its qualifications. As a regulated awarding body, we have a responsibility to remove qualifications that no longer meet the needs of employers and students. We are therefore withdrawing some vocational qualifications at Entry and Levels 1 and 2 and beyond that have small and declining numbers of students.

OCR will of course continue to support and assess the qualifications up to the final certification dates which will be as follows:

Entry Code	Qualification Title	Qualification Number	Last date for entries	Last certification date
10399	OCR Entry Level Award in Employability Skills (Entry 3)	601/5339/8	31/12/2016	31/12/2017
10400	OCR Entry Level Certificate in Employability Skills (Entry 3)	601/5340/4	31/12/2016	31/12/2017
10401	OCR Level 1 Award in Employability Skills	601/5341/6	31/12/2016	31/12/2017
10402	OCR Level 1 Certificate in Employability Skills	601/5342/8	31/12/2016	31/12/2017
10403	OCR Level 2 Award in Employability Skills	601/5343/X	31/12/2016	31/12/2017
10404	OCR Level 2 Certificate in Employability Skills	601/5344/1	31/12/2016	31/12/2017

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the last date I can enter learners?

The final date to enter learners for these qualifications is **31/12/2016**.

2. What is the last date I can certificate learners?

The final certification date for these qualifications is **31/12/2017**.

Please be aware that the last certification date is the final date OCR will produce certificates. Centres are therefore advised to plan for completion of all learner assessment and submit claims at least two months prior to the last certification date.

3. Why is OCR withdrawing these qualifications?

We have reviewed the uptake and performance of these qualifications and have reluctantly decided to withdraw our Employability Skills suite.

4. What alternative OCR qualification(s) could I offer to my learners instead?

OCR will continue to offer a range of skills-based qualifications covering a variety of life and work skills. OCR's Life and Living Skills qualification offers alternative provision at Entry 3.

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-qualifications-qcf-life-and-living-skills-entry-level-1-3/>

Our new qualification Digital Employability, allows learners to develop key IT skills needed to find work and operate in today's work place at Entry 1 to Level 1. For further information on this qualification please see:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-qualifications-qcf-digital-employability-entry-level-1-3-level-1-award-05807-05810/>

5. Are all Awarding Organisations withdrawing these qualifications or is it just OCR?

This is an OCR decision. A number of other Awarding Bodies offer Employability qualifications at Level 1 and Level 2. For details, please view the Ofqual register on the following link:

<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>

6. We are a centre in Wales/Northern Ireland – are we affected in the same way?

Yes, these qualifications are approved to be offered in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The end dates will be the same for all three nations.

7. What if a learner completes their portfolio, but we haven't made a qualification entry for that learner and it is after the final qualification entry date?

Learners must be entered via Interchange before the last entry date of 31/12/2016. When centres are planning their teaching and assessment, they must ensure that all learners have been entered before this date.

8. I want to enter learners now but don't know exactly how many I will have. If I enter them through the unnamed option and can't use them up by the last assessment date what happens with my unused entries?

We advise that you carefully plan any purchases of unnamed entries in line with the last assessment dates as they are not refundable. For both unnamed and named routes, entries can be made until 31/12/2016.

9. What will happen if a learner fails and wants to resubmit evidence for the unit/qualification after the last entry date has passed?

Named entry - If the claim has been withdrawn and the learner wishes to achieve the qualification, then a new claim can be made and new additional or improved evidence re-submitted until the end certification date*, providing that the full qualification has not already been achieved.

Unnamed entry If the claim has been withdrawn and the learner wishes to achieve the qualification, then a new claim can be made and new additional or improved evidence re-submitted until the end certification date*. To do this, you will need to submit the claim using another unnamed entry.

*We advise centres to plan for completion of all learner assessment and submit claims at least two months prior to the last certification date.

10. Who can I talk to, to get more information on alternative OCR qualifications?

To learn more about the options available to you please talk to our Customer Contact Centre on **02476 851509** or email vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

You may also want to contact your Regional Account Manager whose details can be found here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/contact-us/regional-account-managers/>